



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

April 17, 2007

Dear Superintendent:

This letter is to provide you with information regarding the process your agency will need to complete in order to be eligible to receive federal funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for State FY 2009.

Each responsible public agency in the state that provides services to students with disabilities must submit annual assurances to DESE regarding their compliance with the applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

Most agencies submit their assurances via the Web when opening their Part B budget with Funds Management System. As you may know, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is moving forward with the new web based Electronic Planning and Electronic Grants System (ePeGS), and Part B IDEA applications will be processed through this new system. Assurances for special education will be covered by a set of core assurances that will be part of the new ePeGS application process. A copy of the core assurances that will be applicable to all DESE grants, including the Part B special education grant, may be accessed at:
<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Compliance/Assurance.htm>.

In the past, we required that the agency's governing board approve the Assurance Statement prior to submission of the Part B grant application; however, nothing in state or federal regulations requires that governing boards approve the assurance statement. Therefore, the Division of Special Education is not requiring prior Board approval, and each district should follow its own policy on how to make assurances.

Because Special School Districts hold the responsibility for opening a Part B budget covering services provided across the Special School District, the component districts' process for submitting assurances to DESE is somewhat unique. Submission instructions are as follows:

All Component Districts (PreK to 12 and K to 12) of Special School Districts

Each component district will need to provide assurances to SSD so that Special School District can submit its budget by the deadline of June 15, 2008.

As stated above, nothing in state or federal regulations requires that governing boards approve the assurance statement. Therefore, each district should follow its own policy on how to make assurances to SSD.

Special School District will provide information to component districts regarding appropriate assurances they will need to submit to SSD. You **do not** need to submit a copy of the document to the Division of Special Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Component Districts of Special School Districts that administer their own ECSE program

A copy of the attached Core Assurances regarding your compliance for the ECSE program administered by your district must be signed and submitted by **June 15, 2008**, to:

Division of Special Education - Compliance
Attn: Dana Desmond
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

As stated above, nothing in state or federal regulations requires that governing boards approve the assurance statement. Therefore, each district should follow its own policy on how to make assurances to DESE.

A cover page has been provided with the core assurances to facilitate provision of these assurances to DESE.

If you have any questions regarding the Core Assurances Statement or the requirements for submitting assurances, please contact the Compliance Section at 573-751-0186 or via e-mail at webreplyspeco@dese.mo.gov.

Sincerely,



Margaret Strecker, Director, Special Education Compliance

dd

Enclosures

cc: Director of Special Education